

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KUALA 04355 190507Z  
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EA-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00  
VO-05 DODE-00 /044 W

-----030213 190515Z /10

P 190310Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4302  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY  
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 4355

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: INDOCHINA REFUGEES: SAMPATKUMAR'S CURRENT VIEWS

1. I HAD LUNCH TODAY WITH UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR AT MY REQUEST TO GET HIS LATEST THINKING ON THE INDOCHINA REFUGEE PROBLEM AS SEEN FROM MALAYSIA. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERIES, SAMPATKUMAR EXPRESSED CONTINUED SATISFACTION WITH THE MALAYSIAN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY AND PERFORMANCE REGARDING THE PROVISION OF FIRST ASYLUM TO INDOCHINA REFUGEES ARRIVING ON MALAYSIA'S SHORES. HE ALSO EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT AS LONG AS THE UNITED STATES IN PARTICULAR, BUT OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES AS WELL, CONTINUED TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES THEY ACCEPTED, MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT'S POLICY IN THIS REGARD WOULD REMAIN STEADY. HE EXPRESSED EQUAL CONFIDENCE THAT THE UNHCR, ICEM, AND THE MALAYSIAN RED CRESCENT SOCIETY WOULD BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THE GROWING REFUGEE BURDEN IN MALAYSIA. HE NOTED THAT HE WAS AUGMENTING HIS STAFF BY TWO PERMANENT OFFICERS, AND THAT HE HOPED TO GET ADDITIONAL PART-TIME HELP. HE IS ALSO SUPPLYING MATERIALS TO EXISTING CAMPS TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL LODGING AND OTHER FACILITIES FOR THE INCREASED NUMBERS OF REFUGEES IN THE CAMPS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KUALA 04355 190507Z

2. SAMPATKUMAR DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT HE HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO STEP UP THE RATE OF DEPARTURES FOR THE U.S. I SAID THAT I UNDERSTOOD THE RATE OF SPONSORSHIP ASSURANCES WAS LIKELY TO GROW ON OUR SIDE, AND THAT I IN TURN WAS CONFIDENT THAT WE WOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP THE RATE OF DEPARTURES UP WITH THE RATE OF ASSURANCES. I SAID ALSO

THAT WE WERE CONSTANTLY SEEKING WAYS OF STREAMLINING OUR PROCEDURES AND THAT WE WERE CONSIDERING CONDUCTING MEDICAL EXAMS IN THE EAST COAST CAMPS WHILE REFUGEES WERE WAITING FOR TRANSPORT, RATHER THAN WAITING UNTIL THEY GOT TO THE TRANSIETN CENTER IN KUALA LUMPUR. SAMPATKUMAR SAID HE WOULD SEE WHETHER THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH COULD ESTABLISH FREE MEDICAL EXAMINATION FACILITIES IN OR NEAR THE CAMPS ON THE EAST COAST FOR BOTH U.S.-BOUND AND AUSTRALIA-BOUND REFUGEES. I ENCOURAGED HIM TO DO THIS.

3. SAMPATKUMAR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE VICE PRESIDENT'S ASSURANCES REGARDING U.S. INTENTIONS TO INCREASE ITS INTAKE OF INDOCHINA REFUGEES TO 25,000 ANNUALLY. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT MALAYSIAN OFFICIALS HAD REACTED NEGATIVELY TO THE VICE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT IN BANGKOK THAT 15,000-20,000 OF THESE WOULD BE RESERVED FOR THAILAND. HE SAID THEY FOCUSSED ON THE 20,000 RATHER THAN THE 15,000 FIGURE. I SAID I WAS CERTAIN THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT WAS ON OF PRINCIPLE AND THAT IT REFLECTED THE FACT THAT THE GREAT BULK OF THE REFUGEES WERE IN TAILAND. I SAID THAT OUR EXPERIENCE WITH PAST PROGRAMS MADE ME CONFIDENT THAT IN ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW PROGRAM MALAYSIA WOULD OBTAIN ITS FULL AND FAIR SHARE.

4. SAMPATKUMAR MADE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KUALA 04355 190507Z

CONSIDERABLE INTEREST DURING OUR CONVERSATION:

A. THE MALAYSIA GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED THE UNHCR WITH AN OFFER TO RESETTLE IN MALAYSIA UP TO 20,000 CAMBODIAN MUSLIM REFUGEES FROM THE VIETNAM-CAMBODIA BORDER CONFLICT. AT THE SAME TIME, VIETNAM IS CURRENTLY SEEKING UNHCR ASSISTANCE TO RESETTLE CABODIAN REFUGEES FROM THE BORDER CONFLICT EITHER IN VIETNAM OR IN OTHER COUNTRIES. UNHCR REPRESENTATIVES ARE IN HANOI AT PRESENT DISCUSSING THIS REQUEST. SAMPATKUMAR STRESSED IN PARTICULAR THAT HE WAS TELLING US ABOUT THE GOM OFFER IN STRICT CONFIDENCE, AND ASKED US THAT WE NOT REPEAT NOT REVEAL OUR KNOWLEDGE OF IT TO THE MALAYSIWWS OR ANYONE ELSE AT THIS STAGE. HE ADDED THAT HE HOPED THE UNHCR WOULD BE ABLE TO "MATCH-UP" THE VIETNAMESE REQUEST AND THE MALAYSIAN OFFER. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUERY, SAMPATUKUMAR SAID AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE THE MALAYSIANS AND THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NOT BEEN IN CONTACT ON THIS MATTER.

B. THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES HARTLING PLANS TO VISIT VIETNAM, LAOS AND THAILAND IN SEPTEMBER. SAMPATKUMAR IS ENCOURAGING HIM STRONGLY TO

COME TO MALAYSIA AS WELL, BUT IS NOT PRESSING HIM TO VISIT SINGAPORE. IN THE LATTER REGARD, SAMPATKUMAR INDICATED THAT HE SOUGHT HARTLING'S GUIDANCE ON THE SINGAPORE TRANSIT CENTER OFFER AND THAT HARTLING HAD INSTRUCTED HIM NOT TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN WITH THE GOS AT THIS TIME, SINCE THE GOS HAD NOT RESPONDED TO MACE'S LETTER, SAMPATKUMAR'S LETTERS, OR SAMPATKUMAR'S ORAL APPROACHES.

C. SAMPATKUMAR PLANS TO GO TO HONG KONG NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS WITH HONG KONG AUTHORITIES THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR A MACAU TRANSIT CENTER.

5. SAMPATKUMAR ALSO EXPRESSED THE INTERESTING VIEW THAT THE VIETNAMESE "BOAT PEOPLE" WOULD CONTINUE TO STREAM  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KUALA 04355 190507Z

OUT OF VIETNAM UNTIL THE U.S. HAD ESTABLISHED RELATIONS WITH HANOI, AT WHICH TIME THE "BOAT PEOPLE" PROBLEM WOULD CEASE OR FALL OFF SHARPLY. HE CITED TWO REASONS FOR SUGGESTING THIS:

A. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND VIETNAM WOULD BE SEEN WIDELY AMONG THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AS "PATCHING UP" OUR DIFFERENCES,  
AND B. THE "REFUGEE" PROBLEM WOULD BE TRANSFORMED INTO A BILATERAL PROBLEM OF THE REUNIFICATION OF FAMILIES.  
MILLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REFUGEES, REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978KUALA04355  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780210-0670  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** KUALA LUMPUR  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780541/aaaabibc.tel  
**Line Count:** 146  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 65468c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION HA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 06 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2640228  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** INDOCHINA REFUGEES: SAMPATKUMAR'S CURRENT VIEWS  
**TAGS:** SREF, MY  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/65468c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014